SECRET
WARS
2099
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MARVEL
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NEW YORK IS NO MORE! IN ITS PLACE STANDS NUEVA YORK, A TOWERING METROPOLIS FILLED WITH NEW INCARNATIONS OF THE HEROES OF THE PAST! TAKING ON THE MANTLES OF SUCH HEROES AS CAPTAIN AMERICA, IRON MAN, AND HAWKEYE, THESE NEW AVENGERS FIGHT FOR TRUTH, JUSTICE, AND MEGACORPORATIONS LIKE ALCHEMAX. THIS IS

SECRET WARS 2099

THE MULTIVERSE WAS DESTROYED! THE HEROES OF EARTH-616 AND EARTH-1610 WERE POWERLESS TO SAVE IT! NOW ALL THAT REMAINS IS BATTLEWORLD: A MASSIVE PATCHWORK PLANET COMPOSED OF THE FRAGMENTS OF WORLDS THAT NO LONGER EXIST, MAINTAINED BY THE IRON WILL OF ITS GOD AND MASTER, VICTOR VON DOOM! EACH REGION IS A DOMAIN UNTO ITSELF!

IN ONE SUCH DOMAIN, IN A FUTURISTIC METROPOLIS CALLED NUEVA YORK, THE AVENGERS ARE OWNED AND OPERATED BY ALCHEMAX, A MASSIVE CORPORATION THAT CONTROLS SUPERHUMAN ACTIVITY.

ONE GROUP, CALLED THE DEFENDERS, OPERATE WITHOUT ALCHEMAX'S PERMISSION AND WERE BRANDED AS OUTLAWS. CAPTAIN AMERICA AND HERCULES DISAGREED WITH LABELING THEM AS CRIMINALS AND STAGED A PRISON BREAK.

THINGS ARE ABOUT TO GET A BIT MORE COMPLICATED, HOWEVER.

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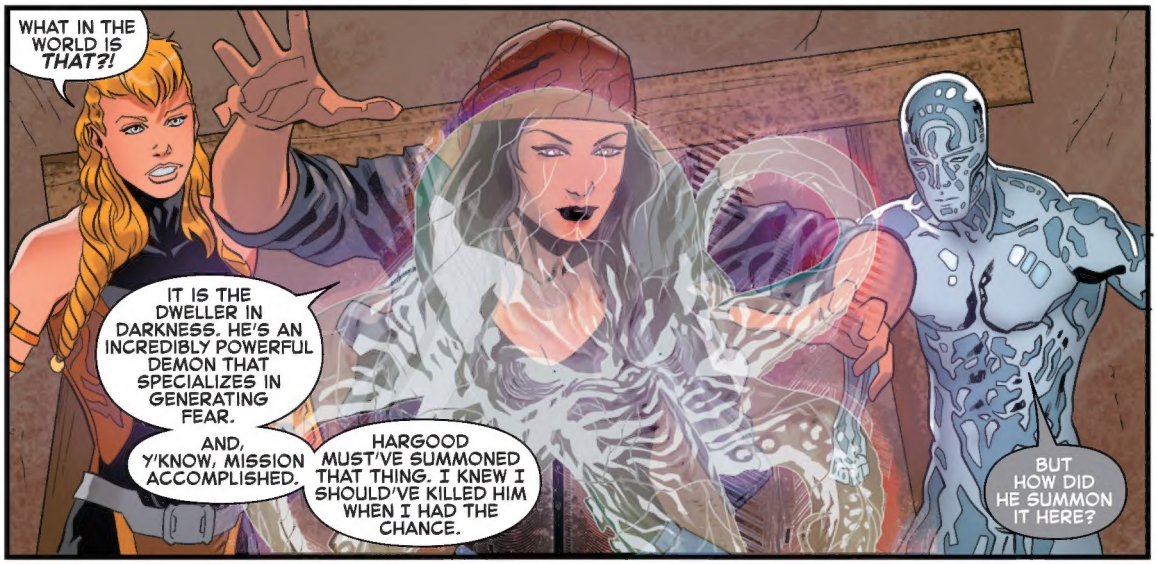
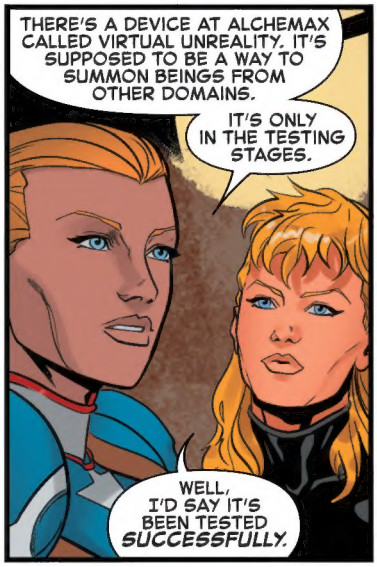
ALCHEMAX, HEADQUARTERS OF THE AVENGERS. THE YEAR 2099.
EXCUSE ME. THIS IS THE VIRTUAL UNREALITY LABORATORY, YES?
ALCHEMAX
WHAT ARE YOU DOING...? YOU'RE NOT PERMITTED IN HERE!
AND YET HERE I AM. APPARENTLY SOMEONE SHUT DOWN THE POWER TO THE DEVICE THAT WAS HOLDING ME IN PLACE.
AND I THOUGHT I WOULD USE MY PROXIMITY TO THIS DEVICE TO GOOD EFFECT.
WHO ARE YOU?!
MY NAME IS MARTIN HARGOOD. BUT I BELIEVE I SHALL HENCEFORTH GO BY THE NAME OF MY ANCESTOR...
BARON MORDO.
AND THIS GATEWAY WILL PROVIDE ME ACCESS TO THE BEING THAT I HAVE BEEN ENDEAVORING TO BRING HERE.
DOWN ON YOUR KNEES, GENTLEMEN! BE PREPARED TO GREET HIM!
AND THEN BE DEVOURED BY HIM!

THE SANCTUM OF STRANGE...
JUST... JUST LET ME GO! I'M BEGGING YOU!
SHE'S BEEN LIKE THIS EVER SINCE I BROUGHT HER HERE. I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT'S HAPPENED TO HER...
I CAN TELL YOU. SHE HAS BEEN TRANSFORMED TO HER OTHER IDENTITY.
MY OTHER WHAT? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?! I'M JUST... I'M ROBERTA MENDEZ!
NAY. YOU ARE FAR MORE.
YOUR HUSBAND--HAROLD--HE DID THIS TO YOU.
DID WHAT? I DON'T UNDERSTAND...
HE SUBJECTED YOU TO THE SUPER-SOLDIER SERUM THAT CREATED THE FIRST CAPTAIN AMERICA. YOU ARE HIS HEIR.
YOU'RE INSANE! YOU'RE ALL CRAZY!
WHY DID YOU STICK ME INTO THIS COSTUME?!
IT IS YOURS. ALL OF THE AVENGERS KNOW THIS. BUT WE ARE UNDER STRICT ORDERS NOT TO DISCUSS IT WITH YOU.
JUST TAKE ME HOME! I'M NOT SOME...SOME SUPER HERO! I'M A NORMAL WOMAN!
YOU ARE ANYTHING BUT.
STOP SAYING THAT! JUST STOP SAYING TH--!

CAP. CAN YOU HEAR ME?
NOW WHAT?! WHERE'S THAT VOICE COMING FROM?!
CAP, IT'S MIGUEL. LISTEN CAREFULLY...
MR. STONE? OH MY GOD! WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN MY HEAD?! HOW IS THIS--?
ASSEMBLE.
RIGHT NOW. ASSEMBLE.
WHOA.
THAT IS UNUSUAL.
MR. STONE. NOT UNEXPECTED.
YOU NEED TO GET BACK HERE, CAP. RIGHT NOW.
I AM AFRAID THAT IS NOT POSSIBLE, MR. STONE. WE HAVE FUNDAMENTAL DISAGREEMENTS THAT--
SCREW THE DISAGREEMENTS! BRING THE DEFENDERS! THE MORE, THE MERRIER!
WE'RE ON CODE RED HERE! WE NEED ALL HANDS!
I SWEAR TO YOU, I'LL TAKE NO ONE PRISONER! THEY CAN LEAVE AFTERWARDS, ASSUMING ANY OF THEM ARE STILL ALIVE!
ALIVE? MR. STONE, WHAT'S GOING ON?

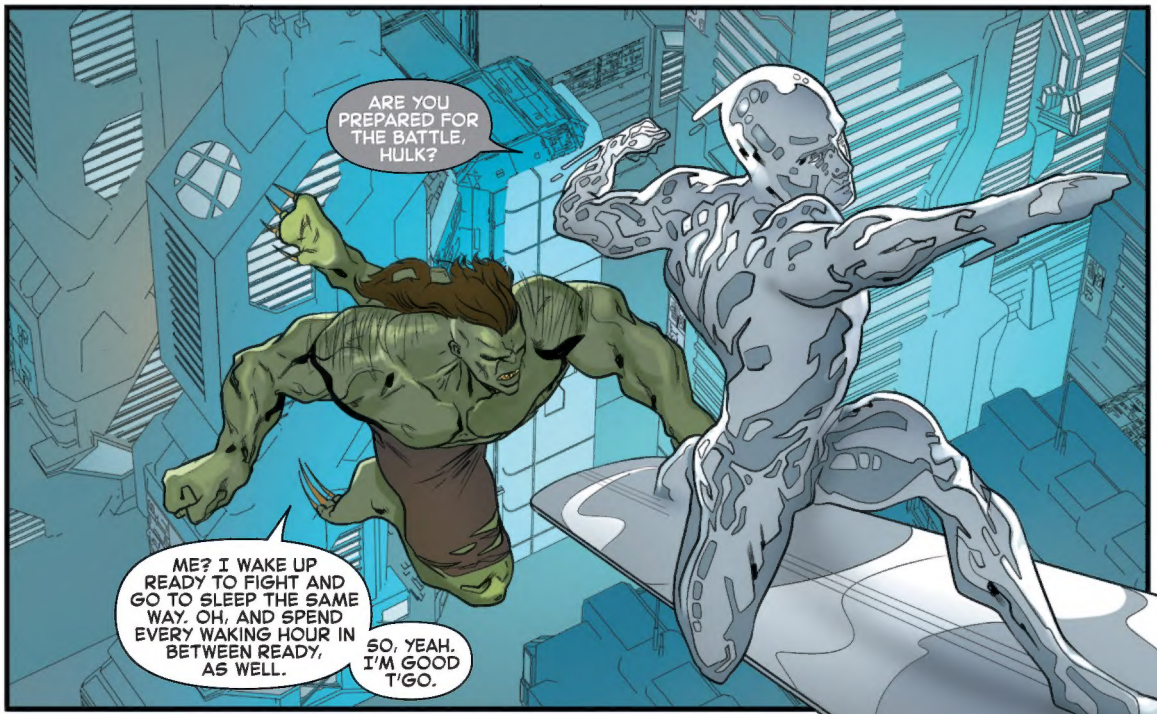
KIND OF HARD TO SAY.

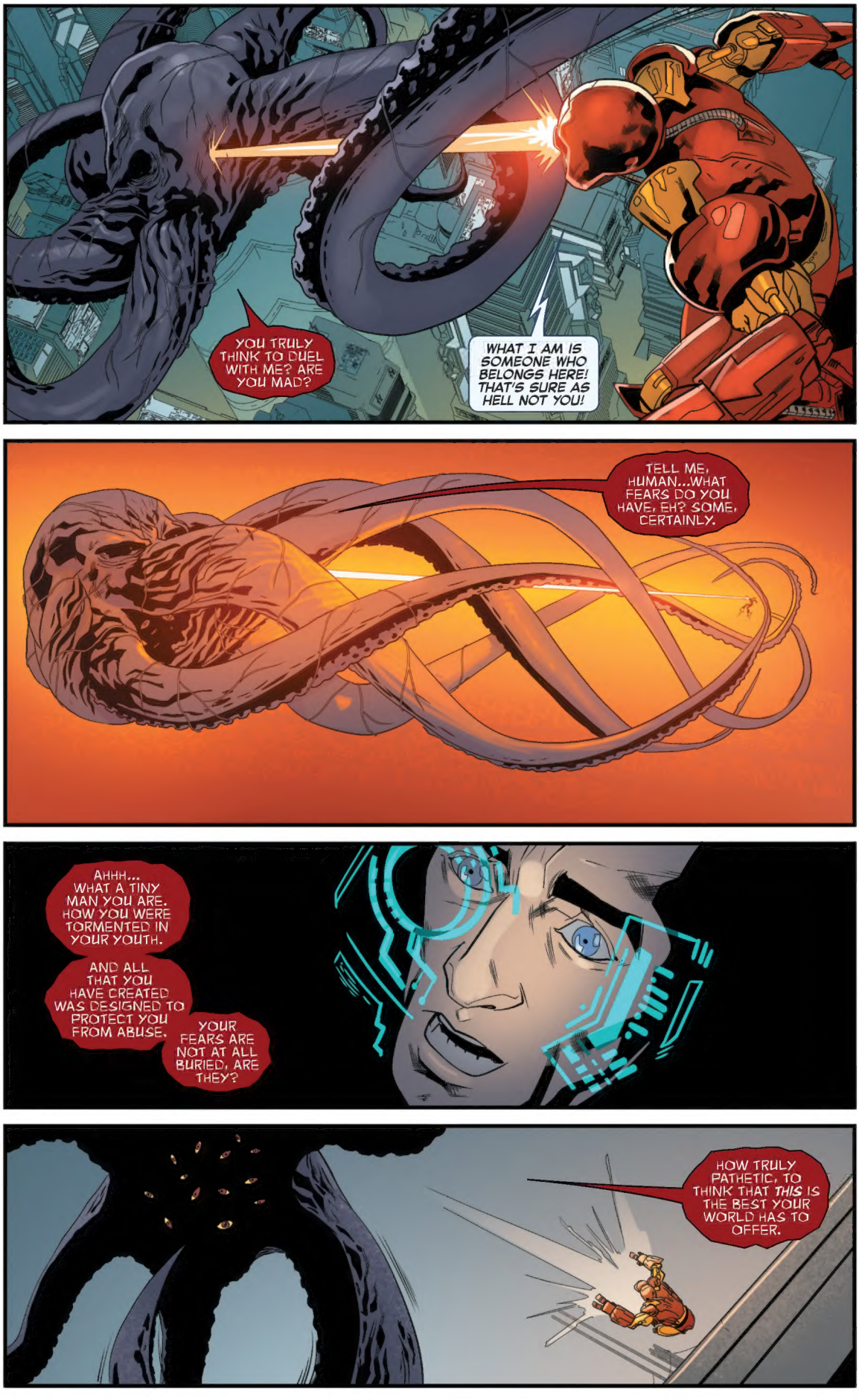

WHAT IN THE WORLD IS *THAT?!*
IT IS THE DWELLER IN DARKNESS. HE'S AN INCREDIBLY POWERFUL DEMON THAT SPECIALIZES IN GENERATING FEAR.
AND, Y'KNOW, MISSION ACCOMPLISHED.
HARGOOD MUST'VE SUMMONED THAT THING. I KNEW I SHOULD'VE KILLED HIM WHEN I HAD THE CHANCE.
BUT HOW DID HE SUMMON IT HERE?

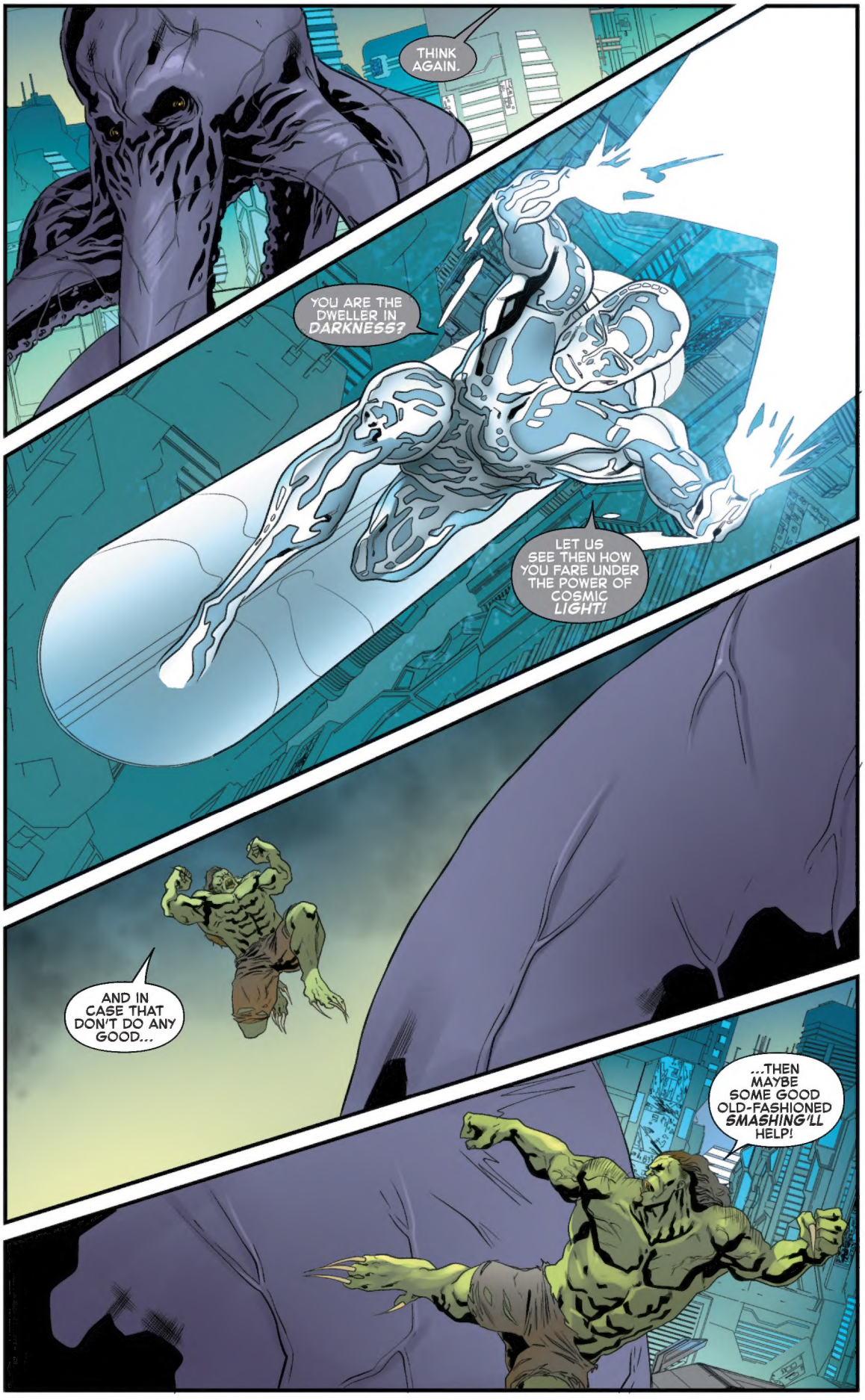

THERE'S A DEVICE AT ALCHEMAX CALLED VIRTUAL UNREALITY. IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE A WAY TO SUMMON BEINGS FROM OTHER DOMAINS.
IT'S ONLY IN THE TESTING STAGES.
WELL, I'D SAY IT'S BEEN TESTED *SUCCESSFULLY.*

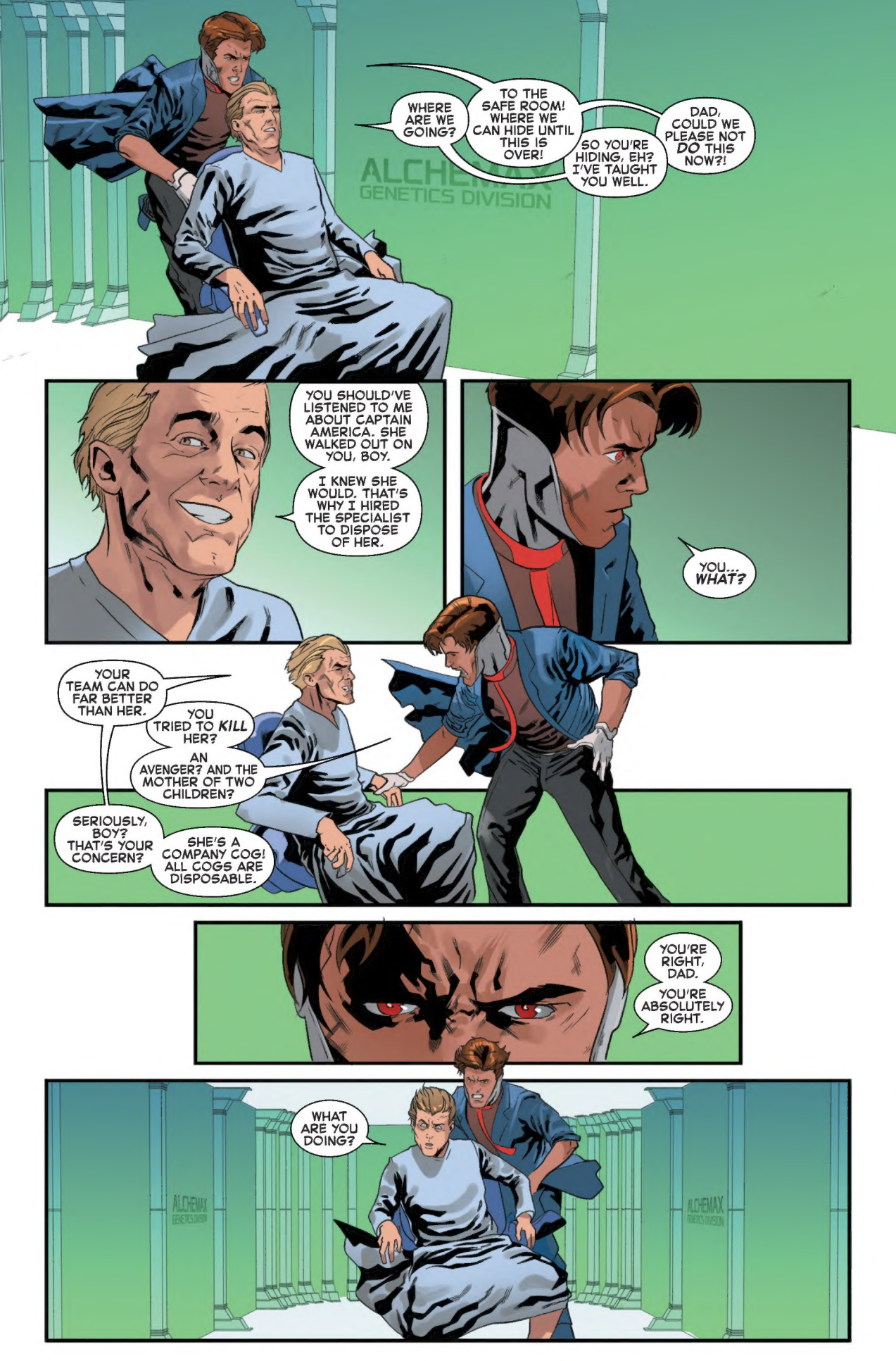
ALL OF YOU, HEAD OUT. I'LL MEET YOU THERE.
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
TO SUMMON AN ALLY.

WHAT ALLY IS HE TALKING ABOUT?
I'VE LEARNED IT'S BETTER NOT TO ASK.
SURFER. HULK. GO ON AHEAD AND TAKE POINT ON THE "DWELLER." THE REST OF US WILL TAKE ON HARGOOD AND ATTEMPT TO GET HIM TO REVERSE THE SPELL.


ARE YOU PREPARED FOR THE BATTLE, HULK?
ME? I WAKE UP READY TO FIGHT AND GO TO SLEEP THE SAME WAY. OH, AND SPEND EVERY WAKING HOUR IN BETWEEN READY, AS WELL.
SO, YEAH. I'M GOOD T'GO.

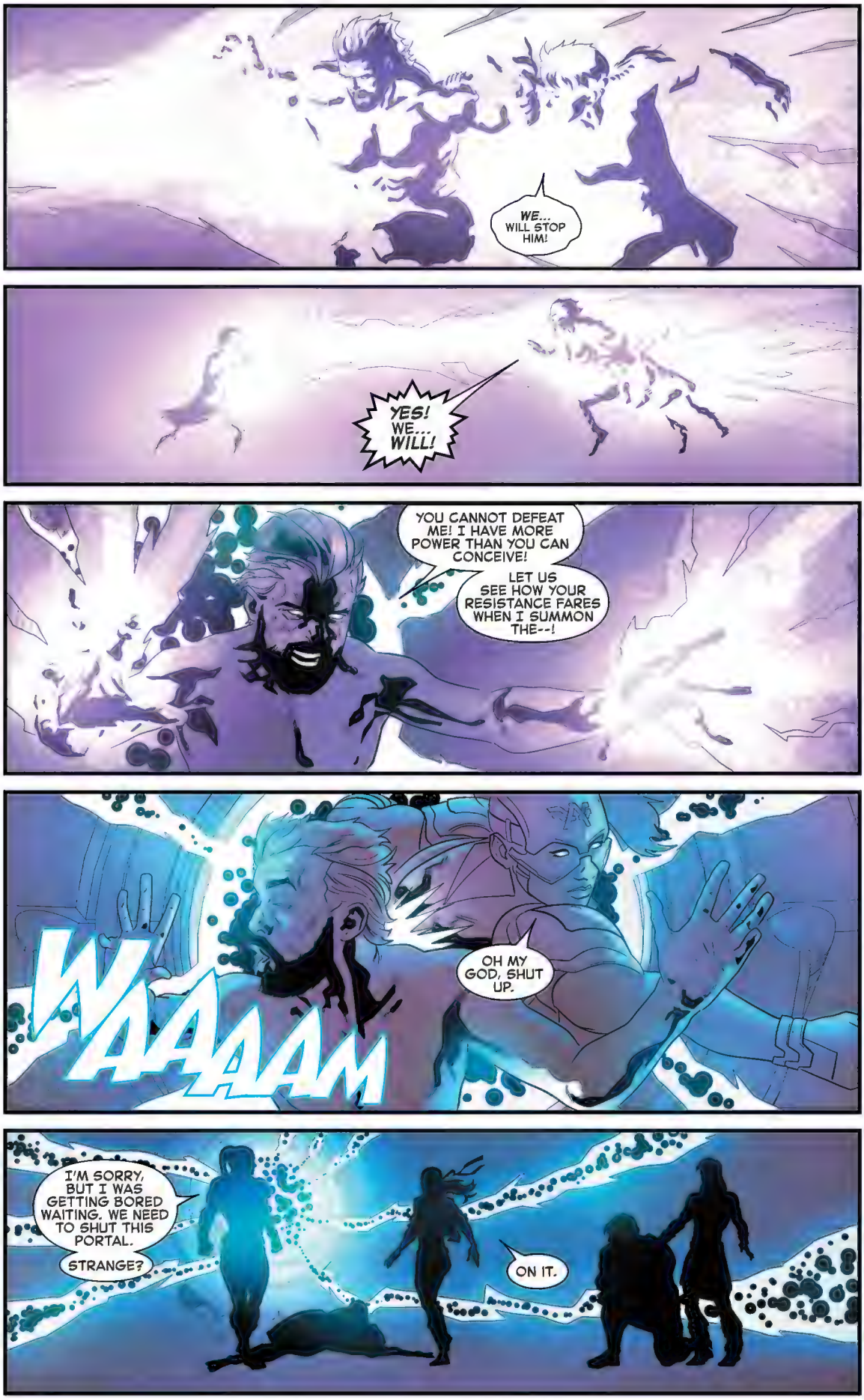

YOU TRULY THINK TO DUEL WITH ME? ARE YOU MAD?
WHAT I AM IS SOMEONE WHO BELONGS HERE! THAT'S SURE AS HELL NOT YOU!
TELL ME, HUMAN...WHAT FEARS DO YOU HAVE, EH? SOME, CERTAINLY.
AHHH... WHAT A TINY MAN YOU ARE. HOW YOU WERE TORMENTED IN YOUR YOUTH.
AND ALL THAT YOU HAVE CREATED WAS DESIGNED TO PROTECT YOU FROM ABUSE.
YOUR FEARS ARE NOT AT ALL BURIED, ARE THEY?
HOW TRULY PATHETIC, TO THINK THAT THIS IS THE BEST YOUR WORLD HAS TO OFFER.


THINK AGAIN.
YOU ARE THE DWELLER IN DARKNESS?
LET US SEE THEN HOW YOU FARE UNDER THE POWER OF COSMIC LIGHT!
AND IN CASE THAT DON'T DO ANY GOOD...
...THEN MAYBE SOME GOOD OLD-FASHIONED SMASHING'LL HELP!


WHERE ARE WE GOING?
TO THE SAFE ROOM! WHERE WE CAN HIDE UNTIL THIS IS OVER!
DAD, COULD WE PLEASE NOT DO THIS NOW?!
SO YOU'RE HIDING, EH? I'VE TAUGHT YOU WELL.
ALCHEMAX
GENETICS DIVISION
YOU SHOULD'VE LISTENED TO ME ABOUT CAPTAIN AMERICA. SHE WALKED OUT ON YOU, BOY.
I KNEW SHE WOULD. THAT'S WHY I HIRED THE SPECIALIST TO DISPOSE OF HER.
YOU... WHAT?
YOUR TEAM CAN DO FAR BETTER THAN HER.
YOU TRIED TO KILL HER?
AN AVENGER? AND THE MOTHER OF TWO CHILDREN?
SERIOUSLY, BOY? THAT'S YOUR CONCERN?
SHE'S A COMPANY COG! ALL COGS ARE DISPOSABLE.
YOU'RE RIGHT, DAD.
YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
ALCHEMAX
GENETICS DIVISION
ALCHEMAX
GENETICS DIVISION

JUST GETTING RID OF A COG, DAD.
WHA--? NO! WAIT!
I HAVE SOMETHING TO TELL YOU!
KRAAASH
EEEYARRRHHH!
SEND ME A HOLOMEMO.

I'VE DONE IT! THE DWELLER WILL LAY WASTE TO THIS CITY!
AND ONCE WE'VE FINISHED HERE--!
PLEASE. DON'T SERENADE US WITH YOUR PLAN BECAUSE WE'RE REALLY NOT INTERESTED.
YOU!
THAT'S RIGHT. US. TOGETHER AGAIN, FOR THE FIRST TIME.
I SHALL ATTEND TO THE FOOL. THE REST OF YOU, DISPENSE WITH THE GATEWAY.
DID YOU IDIOTS TRULY BELIEVE I WAS WITHOUT POWER?!
I AM DESCENDED FROM BARON MORDO! MY POWER DEFIES DESCRIPTION!
MUCH AS YOUR... ARROGANCE DOES...
I WILL... STOP YOU...


WE... WILL STOP HIM!
YES! WE... WILL!
YOU CANNOT DEFEAT ME! I HAVE MORE POWER THAN YOU CAN CONCEIVE!
LET US SEE HOW YOUR RESISTANCE FARES WHEN I SUMMON THE--!
WAAAAM
OH MY GOD, SHUT UP.
I'M SORRY, BUT I WAS GETTING BORED WAITING. WE NEED TO SHUT THIS PORTAL.
STRANGE?
ON IT.

YOUR EFFRONTERY IS COMPLETELY BOUNDLESS.
DO YOU THINK YOURSELVES INVULNERABLE TO MY POWERS?
IT IS TIME TO SET ASIDE THAT PRESUMPTION.
GALACTUS! NO! MY... MY POWER IS NO MATCH FOR YOURS!
YOU MADE ME AND YOU CAN DESTROY ME!
I'M... I'M NOT REALLY THE HULK! NOT *REALLY!*
I'M JUST JOHN EISENHART! A NORMAL, EVERYDAY GUY!
I'M NOT STRONGER THAN ANYBODY!
WELL, THIS ISN'T GOING WELL.
YEAH, I'D HAVE TO AGREE ON THAT.
WHAT DO WE DO?
I DON'T KNOW. GIVE UP?
CAN'T SAY I'VE GOT A BETTER IDEA.

YOU FOOLS! THERE IS NOTHING THAT MY POWERS CANNOT DEFEAT!
NOTHING, EXCEPT PERHAPS SOMETHING THAT MAY BE AS OLD AS YOU...
...AND KNOWS NO FEAR!
GIGANTO! HAVE AT HIM!
RRAARRRRR

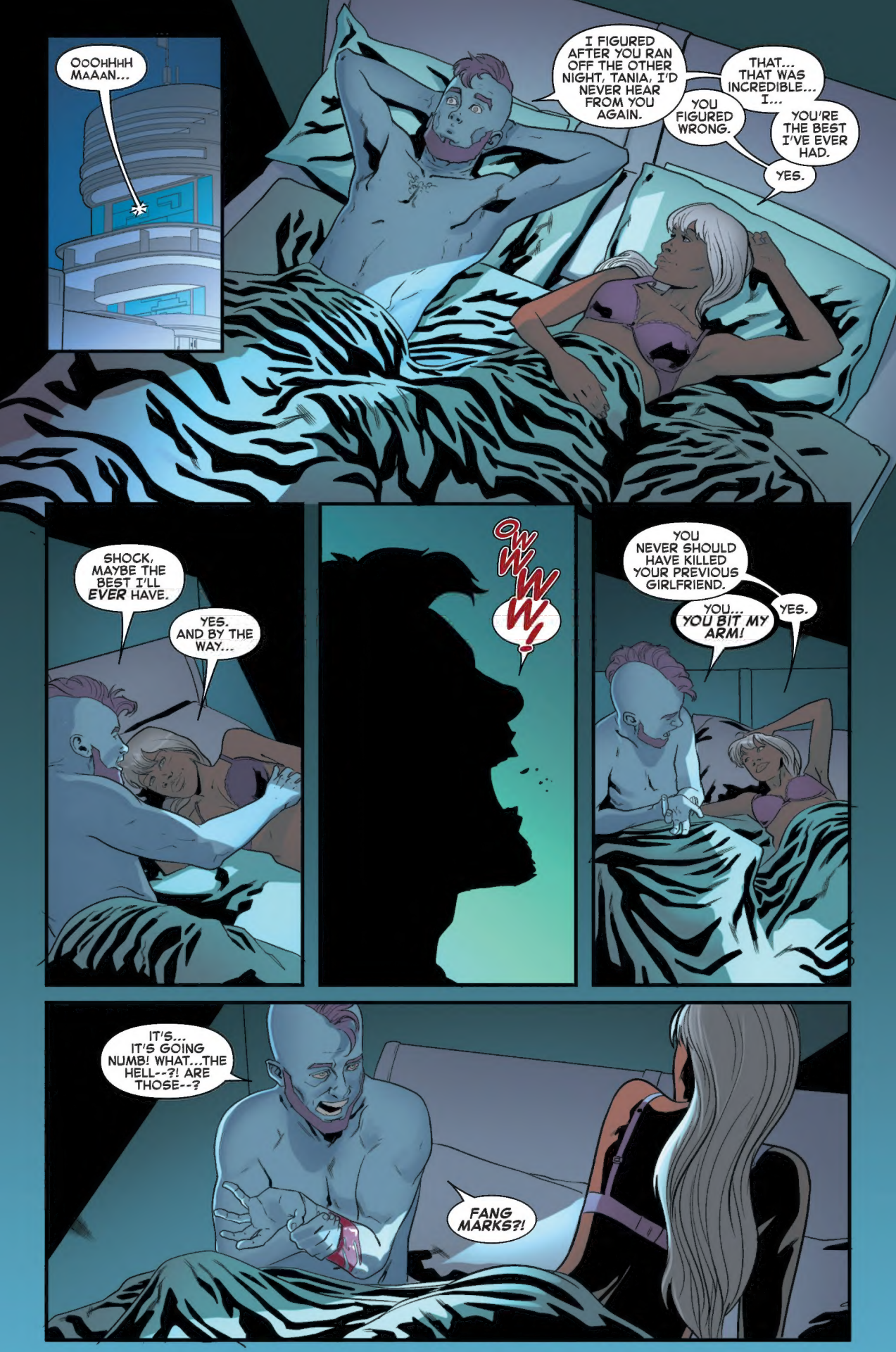
NONSENSE! THERE IS NOTHING THAT DOESN'T KNOW FEAR!
INDEED? THEN PROVE IT.
NO! THIS...THIS IS NOT POSSIBLE!
HOW INTERESTING! IT APPEARS YOU WERE *INCORRECT*, DWELLER! GIGANTO KNOWS NO FEAR!
YOU, HOWEVER, *DO!*

YOU WILL PAY FOR THIS!

DID YOU HEAR THAT?
I DID. HE SOUNDS ANNOYED.
WHAT CAN HE DO IN HIS ANNOYANCE?
DESTROY THE WORLD.
WELL, I'D RATHER THAT DIDN'T HAPPEN.
DON'T WORRY...
I'M ON IT.
BECAUSE WHATEVER BARON MORDO CAN DO...
...I CAN UNDO!

NO! WHAT IS HAPPENING?
YOU CANNOT!
RELEASE ME! RELEASE ME!
HE'S FIGHTING BACK! GETTING HARDER TO HOLD!
YOU CAN DO IT! I BELIEVE IN YOU!
STAY STEADY! KEEP AT IT!
NOOOOOO!
YOU GOT HIM!
HERCULES! HE'S THROUGH! CLOSE THE GATE!
RIIIIIP
KRUUUNK
I MEANT "SHUT IT DOWN," BUT THAT WORKS, TOO.
LET'S GO UP TOPSIDE, MAKE SURE EVERYONE ELSE IS OKAY.

SO...YOU REALIZE YOUR GROUP IS ILLEGAL.
YOU'VE BROUGHT IT TO OUR ATTENTION, YES.
I SHOULD HAVE THE AVENGERS ARREST YOU.
YOU CAN TRY.
EXCEPT YOU SAVED THE CITY. MY CITY.
SO IN REALITY, YOU'RE ONLY CRIMINALS IN THE EYES OF THE LAW. A LAW THAT MY LATE FATHER WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN PASSING.
SOMETIMES YOU HAVE TO MOVE AWAY FROM YOUR FATHER TO BE YOUR OWN MAN.
"LATE" FATHER?
I'VE LEARNED IT'S OFTEN BETTER NOT TO ASK.
SO MY SUGGESTION IS THAT HENCEFORTH YOU STAY OUT OF OUR WAY, AND WE'LL STAY OUT OF YOURS.
SO THAT'S IT?
THAT'S IT.
NO "THANK YOU"?
DON'T PUSH IT.
THANK YOU.
I HEARD THAT.
GOOD. NOW IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME...
...I HAVE TO HAVE A LONG TALK WITH MY HUSBAND.


OOOHHHH MAAAN...
I FIGURED AFTER YOU RAN OFF THE OTHER NIGHT, TANIA, I'D NEVER HEAR FROM YOU AGAIN.
YOU FIGURED WRONG.
THAT... THAT WAS INCREDIBLE... I...
YOU'RE THE BEST I'VE EVER HAD.
YES.
SHOCK, MAYBE THE BEST I'LL *EVER* HAVE.
YES. AND BY THE WAY...
OWWW!
YOU NEVER SHOULD HAVE KILLED YOUR PREVIOUS GIRLFRIEND.
YOU... *YOU BIT MY ARM!*
YES.
IT'S... IT'S GOING NUMB! WHAT...THE HELL--?! ARE THOSE--?
FANG MARKS?!

YES.
NO! WHAT'RE YOU--?!
NO!
GK HHH CHHH
WIDOW.
AW GOD, NOT AGAIN.
YES, AGAIN. EMERGENCY. TIMES SQUARE, PRONTO.
DAMN IT.
I HATE TO EAT AND RUN.
THE END... FOR NOW!

MINUTEMEN
Blutman